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vention, it makes no engagement in regard to obligatory arbitration.\*

#### Servia

Under the reservations recorded in the *procès-verbal* of the Third Commission of July 20, 1899.†

Extract from the *procès-verbal*:

In the name of the Royal Government of Servia, we have the honor to declare that our adoption of the principle of good offices and mediation does not imply a recognition of the right of third States to use these means except with the extreme reserve which proceedings of this delicate nature require.

We do not admit good offices and mediation except on condition that their character of purely friendly counsel is maintained fully and completely, and we never could accept them in forms and circumstances such as to impress upon them the character of intervention.‡

#### Turkey

Under reservation of the declaration made in the plenary sitting of the Conference of July 25, 1899.

Extract from the *procès-verbal*:

The Turkish delegation, considering that the work of this Conference has been a work of high loyalty and humanity, destined solely to assure general peace by safeguarding the interests and the rights of each one, declares, in the name of its Government, that it adheres to the project just adopted, on the following conditions:

1. It is formally understood that recourse to good offices and mediation, to commissions of inquiry and arbitration, is purely facultative, and could not in any case assume an obligatory character or degenerate into interventions;

2. The Imperial Government itself will be the judge of the cases where its interests would permit it to admit these methods without its abstention or refusal to have recourse to them being considered by the signatory States as an unfriendly act.

It goes without saying that in no case could the means in question be applied to questions concerning interior regulation.\*

#### United States

Under reservation of the declaration made at the plenary sitting of the Conference on the 25th of July, 1899.†††

Extract from the *procès-verbal*:

The delegation of the United States of America on signing the Convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes, as proposed by the International Peace Conference, makes the following declaration:

Nothing contained in this Convention shall be so construed as to require the United States of America to depart from its traditional policy of not intruding upon, interfering with, or entangling itself in the political questions or policy or internal administration of any foreign State; nor shall anything contained in the said Convention be construed to imply a relinquishment by the United States of America of its traditional attitude toward purely American questions.††††

\* Declaration of Turkhan Pasha. *Procès-verbaux*, pt. 1, p. 70. This reservation does not appear in the instrument of ratification.

† Reservations maintained at ratification.

‡ Declaration of Mr. Miyatovitch. *Procès-verbaux*, pt. iv, p. 47.

†† Reservations maintained at ratification.

†††† *Procès-verbaux*, pt. 1, p. 69. Compare the reservation of the United States to the 1907 Convention, post, p. 87.

## THE PRESIDENT, THE SENATE, AND THE TREATY

With the reassembling of Congress on December 1, desultory discussion, with indirect reference to the treaty, was renewed by the Senators in the course of debate on important domestic issues, which it was felt necessary should be settled prior to the adjournment for Christmas. These comments on the situation also were supplemented by interviews with the leaders of the various groups in the Senate, some being urgent for compromise and others resolute against any change in the reservations to the treaty approved by a minority on the 19th of November.

On December 13, after three hours of debate, in which supporters of the President and champions of the treaty with reservations disputed as to where responsibility for the failure to take action on the treaty rested, the problem was formally faced again following the introduction of resolutions by Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania. Mr. Knox first moved:

*Resolved*, That the Senate of the United States unservedly advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles in so far as it provides for the creation of a status of peace between the United States and Germany.

He then moved the following:

Joint resolution declaring that a state of peace exists between the United States and Germany.

*Resolved*, etc., That peace exists between the United States and Germany.

Immediate action on these proposals was prevented by the opposition of Senator Hitchcock, the still nominally recognized spokesman of the President in the Senate, who, nevertheless, urged a compromise, to be effected by a committee of conciliation; and he pledged that he would not bring up the treaty until such a conference had been held and a report by it made. On the 14th, however, there issued from the White House an informal, but quasi-official, statement to the following effect:

"It was learned from the highest authority at the Executive offices today that the hope of the Republican leaders of the Senate that the President would presently make some move which will relieve the situation with regard to the treaty is entirely without foundation; he has no compromise or concession of any kind in mind, but intends, so far as he is concerned, that the Republican leaders of the Senate shall continue to bear the undivided responsibility for the fate of the treaty and the present condition of the world in consequence of that fate."

On the 17th Senator Knox asked unanimous consent, as in open executive session, that the Senate proceed to consideration of the resolutions introduced by him on the 13th. Objection being made, Senator Knox then moved that the resolutions be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and it was so ordered.

## CHRONOLOGY OF TREATIES

Nov. 27. Bulgaria signed the Treaty of Neuilly with the Allied and Associated Powers.

Dec. 5. Jugo-Slavia signed the new financial annexes of the Treaty with Austria, and also the Treaty of Neuilly between Bulgaria and the Entente Powers.

Dec. 9. The United States Peace Commissioners signed the Treaty with Roumania.